

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I want to make clear that the cottage is there. It's opening it. It's not a new building. It's a second floor. Department of Corrections is looking into additional federal money that may be used to operate that, but they don't know at this point. The other thing is I, Senator Warner, is this the time to spring your bill on the...? I didn't know whether you had your light on, but there is some money that can be made available. It's on Select File, LB 325, that does save the state 500,000 dollars the first year, goes to 925,000 the second year. It's a change in an accounting system. Changes DAS accounting to revolving fund. This is a bill that will charge individual agencies the cost of their accounting as done by DAS and it's looked at over a two-year period of to be a savings of almost a million dollars a year. So, in answer to Bud... Senator Robinson's question, that is a bill that is not passed at this point. It could possibly save some money that is not on the sheet at this time. I will let, if there's more explanation of that, in a proper time, but that is a bill that's out there that I hope you'll be made aware of, LB 325.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I won't speak much on this, but most of you know I work in this field of working with adolescents and one of the things that concerns me more than anything in the world is people who say we want something done about crime but don't want to pay anything for it. It costs. As Senator Wehrbein has been telling you, and he's done it very eloquently, about the opening up the other cottage at Kearney, that cottage was closed some years ago in a budget cut and before that cottage was even cut the numbers were going up and the numbers, as you know, have almost doubled in the last few years. This cottage will only give us a little more time, maybe a few more days, on each case to keep them a little longer. The bodies are already there. They're coming morning, noon and night. (LB) 988 was a good bill. We passed it. Now we need to put the money behind it. I rise to support this and hope that you will do the same. If you have any questions about the actual treatment or the use of this money I'd be more than glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. There any further discussion on the Wehrbein amendment? Seeing none,